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nature 1 January 1987 Volume 325

URRENT PERIODICALS The conssion in the hydroid abelia is luminescent support cells, which are coupled to the photocytes by gap junctions. This example of intercellular chemical signaling through gap junctions is reported on page 60.

loage hash moton univa Adam could have been contemporaries after all.

THIS WEEK 11 News special .. pages 5-9

Some of Nature's corresponelents give a personal perspective on 1987. What will be the important happenings of the noming year?

Sakharov

. page 3



Exile lifted. Sakharov as outipoken as ever.

Will grebes provide he answer?

💃 . . page 16

Cohabiting species seem to emphasize their differences from each other.



■ Did Adam and Eve meet?

.. pages 13 and 31

All humans are descended from one female who lived in Africa about 200,000 years ago, claim Rebecca L. Cann, Mark Stoneking and Allan C. Wilson. But Jim Wainscoat wonders whether Eve and

■ Optical logic achieved

. . . pages 12 and 27

Optical switches have been linked together by laser beams for the first time to produce a functioning logic circuit of the type that will lead to a new generation of computers. In a News and Views article Alan Miller puts this work by Professor S.D. Smith and his colleagues into context: optical computers will not compete with electronic machines but rather will be complementary to them, allowing particular flexibility in the use of simultaneous identical calculations involving large data sets that is, parallel processing.

■ Noisy crystals . . . page 40

With the help of an acoustic emission analyser, the noise of a polymer crystallizing has been recorded. The sound represents the release of the stress that is built up as the crystals begin to form.

■ Birdsong in helium

. . . page 53

A sparrow singing in an atmosphere of helium has shown that resonances in a songbird's vocal tract help put the sweetness into its song. This conclusion, which is contrary to previous assumptions. makes the production of birdsong more like that of human sound than has been thought.

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Australia primes research pump 8 Western Europe: Year ends with Europe still divided by nationalism 9 Soviet Union: More open government — but nuclear testing on the cards.

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Nature* (ISSN 0028-0836) is published weekly on Thursday, except the last week in December, by Macmillan Journals Ltd and includes the Annual Index (mailed in February). Annual subscription or USA and Canada US \$250. USA and Canadian orders to: Nature. Subscription Dept. PO Box 1501. Neptune. NJ 07753, USA. Other orders to Nature. Brunel Road, Basingstoke. Hants RG21 ax Second class postage paid at New York. NY 10012 and additional mailing offices. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use, or internal or personal use of specific 2XS, US. Second class postage paid at New York. NY 10012 and additional mailing offices. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use, or internal or personal use of specific 2XS, US. Second class postage paid at New York. NY 10012 and additional mailing offices. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use, or internal or personal use of specific 2XS, US. Second class postage paid at New York. NY 10012 and additional mailing offices. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use, or internal or personal use of specific 2XS, US. Second class postage paid at New York. NY 10012 and additional mailing offices. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use, or internal or personal use of specific 2XS, US. Second class postage paid at New York. NY 10012 and additional mailing offices. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use, or internal or personal use, o